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accelerates or inhibits some vital process. In either case a difficulty arises when the probability of a single or even small number of molecules reaching the necessary cells is considered.

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THE PERIODICAL CICADA

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: It is probably desirable to record the appearance, in accord with expectation, of brood XIII of the periodical cicada or seventeen-year locust (*Tibicina septendecim*) in the Chicago area this year. Reference to Marlatt's excellent paper¹ enables one to satisfactorily identify the present insects as those of the compact brood described by Fitch as brood 6, by Walsh-Riley as brood III, by Riley as brood V and by Marlatt as brood XIII. In Dr. Gideon B. Smith's manuscript chronology the present brood was listed as appearing "in Winnebago, Monard County, and neighborhood in 1854; again in 1871."

The writer first noted the larvæ April 29 of this year, at which time they were present in great numbers at Flossmoor, occupying their characteristic "chimneys." The adults emerged May 28 in enormous numbers, distributed from at least Batavia and Wheeling to Flossmoor and to Crown Point. Two weeks ago oviposition seemed to be past its crest and at the present time in localities visited the adults have practically disappeared.

The precision of appearance of this brood over a period of seventy years is an interesting instance of the uniformity of developmental tempo under natural conditions.

JAMES NELSON GOWANLOCK

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO,
JUNE 30, 1922

SOME SIDELIGHTS ON THE LIFE OF RUSSIAN PROFESSORS

It has been noted on various occasions that the Russian professors and the research men

are "book-hungry." Being shut off from the remainder of the civilized world for nearly eight years, they have but very little and very fragmentary knowledge of what has been and is being done in western Europe and America. To work under such conditions is at least very inconvenient. But in reality the situation is much worse. The Russian men of science literally have been "bread hungry" for the past several years. Every one of us who had a chance to talk to Russian refugees heard of stories of bread hunting for four or five hours at a time. Those days, let us hope, have passed. The conditions in Russia are becoming better. But even the so-called "better conditions" are very far from good, as one can judge from the following extracts from a letter which the writer received from a Russian professor in Petrograd:

Notwithstanding the fact that the salaries are regulated by associations of professionals and continuously raised in parallel with the value of the ruble, yet the highest paid specialist in various departments will receive in May, 1922, nearly 40,000,000 rubles in Soviet paper money, plus the food ration of 36 pounds of flour, 7 pounds of fish and a pound each of salt, sugar and fat, plus (in exceptional cases) special academic portion (a little in excess of one mentioned above). Meantime, according to quotation of Government Bank for May, \$100 is equal to \$193,000,000 Soviet paper rubles.

But even this meager portion and the pack of worthless money do not come on time, adding further to the discomfort of professional people in Russia.

On account of shortage of funds at the government's disposal, the personnel in all departments is systematically decreasing, the salaries come late as well as the food rations. As a matter of fact, the salaries in our division (of an agricultural experiment station) have not been received for March, while the food ration is just being received for April. [The letter was dated May 27, 1922.]

In the same way, the allowances for current expenses of the experiment station are being decreased and delayed.

In spite of all these conditions, of which I do not think it advisable to talk in detail, we are still alive and continue our research, although, of

¹Marlatt, C. L.: 1907, "The Periodical Cicada," *Bureau of Entomology Bulletin No. 71*, U. S. Department of Agriculture.